
Books, Periodicals, Pamphlets

HOW TO KNOW THE AMERICAN MARINE SHELLS

by R. Tucker Abbott

Signet Key Book, 1961. 75¢.

This fine little book should prove very helpful for all beginners in the field of conchology. Much valuable information is contained in the 222 pages and the color illustrations are, in part, magnificent. West coast species are well represented, which up to now has been rather unusual in books written and published in the East. We would take exception only to two points in the whole work, one being what Dr. Abbott is saying about our journal, *The Veliger*. In a personal letter to your editor, sent before the booklet reached the market, Dr. Abbott indicated that he was aware that his statement no longer held true, and he explained the lapsus as due to the time necessary in the production of a work such as this. The other point with which we cannot wholeheartedly agree is Dr. Abbott's consistent habit of translating the scientific names and giving them in a manner as if they were generally accepted vernacular names. This practice in many instances yields a "common" name which is more awkward and more difficult to remember than the real scientific name. Aside from these minor points, we feel that this book can be recommended without reservation and will fill a long-felt need — a source to which the many beginners can be referred when they inquire of shell club secretaries about shell collecting.

RS

JOURNAL DE CONCHYLILOGIE

Vol. 101, No. 1, for January 1, 1961.

"Malformations et colorations spécifiques chez plusieurs *Cypraea* de la Nouvelle-Calédonie et de la Polynésie française", L. J. Bouge.

MK

PRINCIPLES OF ANIMAL TAXONOMY

by George Gaylord Simpson

Columbia University Biological Series,
No. XX, 1961. \$6.—.

The author is Alexander Agassiz Professor of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. He has been a member of the staff of the American Museum of Natural History and on the faculty of Columbia University. He is the author of *The Meaning of Evolution*; *Horses*; *The Major Features of Evolution*; *Life, An Introduction to Biology*; and *Quantitative Zoology*.

This book provides a detailed introduction to the fundamental principles of animal taxonomy. It is the only general study available in English on the principles underlying the classification of animals, and the only modern treatment of the subject in any language.

The author defines taxonomy as "the theoretical study of classification, including its bases, principles, procedures, and rules". He begins by considering order in nature and discusses the scientific ordering responsible for the modern classification of organisms. He examines the kinds of taxonomic evidence available to the scientist and discusses the historical development of taxonomy from Linnaeus to the present, including the relationship of taxonomy and evolution. Special chapters are devoted to the lower and the higher taxonomic categories.

JQB

THORACIC CIRRIPIEDIA OF THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA

by Dora Priaulx Henry

Univ. Washington Publ. Oceanography,
vol. 4, no. 4, pp. 135-215, pls. I-V. December 27, 1960. University of Washington Press. Seattle. \$1.—.

This paper is based on a collection of barnacles collected by Walter J. Eyerdam in the vicinity of Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico, in Janu-